

09/944,788

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REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 19, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 19, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

I. RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Claims 1-30 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-30 are subject to restriction and/or election. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. §121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits.

In particular, the Examiner states that the application contains claims directed to five patentably distinct inventions. Group I comprises claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 14, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28 and 29. Group II comprises claims 3, 9, 15, 19, 22, 23, 26 and 27. Group III comprises claims 4, 10 and 16. Group IV comprises claims 5, 11 and 16. Group V comprises claims 6, 12 and 18.

Applicant elects Group I. Claims 3-6, 9-12, 15-19, 22-23, 26-27 and 30 are withdrawn without prejudice. The Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications drawn to the non-elected claims.

II. CONCLUSION

Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.


If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

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Respectfully submitted,

11/20/06
Date

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